

Commander United States Coast Guard Seventh District 909 SE 1st Avenue Miami, Florida 33131 Staff Symbol: (dpb) Phone: (305) 415-6747 Fax: (305) 415-6763 Email: Omar.Beceiro@uscg.mil

16591/3099 April 29, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE (01-24)

All interested parties are herein notified that Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District has received a bridge permit application dated January 8, 2024 from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The applicant is requesting approval of location and plans for a bridge replacement across a navigable waterway of the United States.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Sebastian Inlet, Mile 0.1, Sebastian, between Indian River and Brevard Counties, Florida, Latitude/Longitude: 27.860070, -80.448385

CHARACTER OF WORK:

Florida Department of Transportation intends to replace the James H. Pruitt Memorial Bridge (Bridge No. 880005), with a new fixed-bridge along the same alignment. Improvements include replacing the existing under deck observation walks, and the addition of bicycle and pedestrian facilities across the bridge.

The new bridge would consist of a fixed span bridge approximately 1544 feet in length and 68 feet in width. The bridge would carry two 12-foot travel lanes, two 8-foot shoulders, and two 12-foot shared use paths. The existing bridge will be removed in its entirety.

The primary purpose of the proposed project is to address the structural and functional deficiencies of the existing James h. Pruitt Memorial Bridge across Sebastian Inlet. The project will also address the gap in system linkage for bicyclists and pedestrians. The need for this proposal is to replace a structurally deficient bridge that does not provide pedestrian or bicycle facilities across the bridge.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES: The proposed bridge will have clearances as described in the table below relative to Mean High Water (MHW).

	Existing (feet)	Proposed (feet)
Vertical:	39	51
Horizontal:	140	140

Datum: NAVD88

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS: Florida Department of Transportation, as the lead agency pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022, has determined the bridge replacement warrants a categorical exclusion (CATEX) for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Florida Department of Transportation is acting on behalf of the Coast Guard for all environmental control laws. The Coast Guard has made a tentative determination that the bridge replacement warrants a CATEX because it satisfies criteria for such actions listed in the Coast Guard's NEPA Implementing Instructions.

A Cultural Resources Assessment Survey found the James H. Pruitt Memorial Bridge to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its engineering. The bridge is an early example of the use of prestressed concrete in Florida.

Florida Department of Transportation and State Historic Preservation Officer executed a memorandum of agreement on April 21, 2023 that outlines conditions to minimize and mitigate adverse effects resulting from the proposed project, including Historic American Engineering Record Level II documentation for the historic bridge, development and funding of State Historic Markers and educational interpretive panels, and archaeological monitoring.

Water quality certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, for this project will be obtained from pending Florida Department of Environmental Protection and U.S. Army Corps permits.

Wetland types identified within the project area include Bays and Estuaries and Mangrove Swamp. The proposed improvements would affect approximately 0.81 acres of surface waters from bridge construction and 0.11 acres of mangroves for roadway improvements north and south of the bridge. Appropriate mitigation to offset these impacts will be provided via credits from an approved mitigation bank.

The northern and southern portions of the project are within Flood Zone AE and the central portion is within Zone VE. The Zone AE elevation north of the bridge ranges from 5-feet to 6-feet North American Vertical Datum (NAVD). The Zone AE elevation south of the bridge ranges from 7-feet to 8-feet NAVD. The low member elevation in the navigational span is 50.8 feet (NAVD.

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) occurs within the project footprint in the form of open water and mangroves. A benthic survey revealed no seagrasses exist within the project study area as the primarily rocky hardbottom substrate, coupled with the high velocity current, likely precludes seagrasses from colonizing and establishing in this area. Florida Department of Transportation initiated informal EFH consultation on November 27, 2023, with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Nineteen federally protected animals (plus the bald eagle) have the potential to occur within the Brevard/Indian River Counties area where the project is located. The proposed project is expected to have no effect on 10 of the 19 listed species due to the lack of suitable habitat. A determination of May Affect not Likely to Adversely was made for the remaining nine species. In a letter dated August 8, 2022, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with these determinations. In a letter dated February 24, 2023, NMFS agreed to completing informal consultation prior to construction.

NAVIGATION: During construction, construction-related vessels and equipment may affect navigation. The Coast Guard will publish in the Local Notice to Mariners (LNM) project phases that may affect navigation. To subscribe to the Coast Guard LNM, please visit http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/ under "Subscribe / Report (free)" select the notifications you wish to receive; note this project is in the Seventh Coast Guard District area.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: Mariners are requested to comment on the proposed navigation clearances, placement of a bridge protective system and other navigational safety issues, including need for clearance gauges and extent of nighttime navigation to determine the need for bridge lighting.

Interested parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge project including its potential environmental impacts to include those impacts on minority and/or low-income populations, if any, giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of the reasons for support of, or opposition to, the proposed work.

Comments will be received for a period of 30 days from the date of this public notice. Comments may be emailed to: Omar.Beceiro@uscg.mil or mailed to:

Commander (dpb) Seventh Coast Guard District 909 SE 1st Ave., Suite 432 Miami, Florida 33131-3028

The Coast Guard project manager for this application is Mr. Omar Beceiro, who can be contacted by mail at the above address or e-mail. Comments received will be made part of the project administrative record.

Conceptual bridge plans attached.

INDEX OF SHEETS

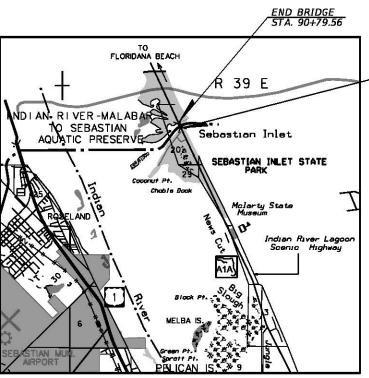
LOCATION MAP

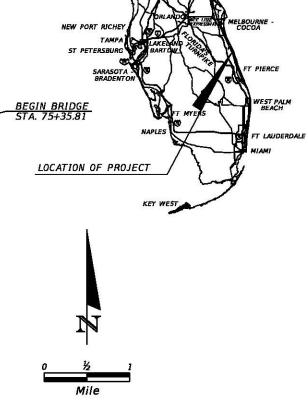
2 - 4 PLAN AND ELEVATION

5 BRIDGE TYPICAL SECTIONS

6 BRIDGE PROTECTIVE SYSTEM/ FENDER PLAN
7 BRIDGE PROTECTIVE SYSTEM/ FENDER DETAILS









THIS ITEM HAS BEEN DIGITALLY SIGNED AND SEALED BY:

John S Hartland 2024.01.12 16:15:46 -05'00'

ON THE DATE ADJACENT TO THE SEAL

PRINTED COPIES OF THIS DOCUMENT ARE NOT CONSIDERED SIGNED AND SEALED AND THE SIGNATURE MUST BE VERIFIED ON ANY ELECTRONIC COPIES. CONCEPTUAL PLANS UTILIZED TO OBTAIN COAST GUARD BRIDGE PERMIT

ACKSONVILLE

ST AUGUSTINE

DAYTONA BEACH

APPLICANT:
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONSULTANT:
TRANSYSTEMS CORPORATION CONSULTANTS
TRANSYSTEMS CORPORATION CONSULTANTS
TRANSYSTEMS CORPORATION CONSULTANTS

TRANSYSTEMS CORPORATION CONSULTANTS

VERT. DATUM
NAVD-88
PROPOSED BRIDGE NO.: 8800005
PROPOSED BRIDGE NO.: 88XXXX
SR A1A OVER SEBASTIAN INLET (MP 0.1)
NEAR SEBASTIAN, INDIAN RIVER/
BREVARD COUNTY, FL

3230 W. COMMERCIAL BLVD. SUITE 450

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33309

JOHN S. HARTLAND, P.E. NO.: 51388

LOCATION MAP

SHEET NO. 1 OF 7

